

**REMARKS**

In response to the Restriction/Election requirement of June 15, 2005, Applicant hereby provisionally elects, with traverse, Group II, claims 14-27, drawn to a vehicle comprising a heated step assembly, classified in class 280, subclass 163. Claims 1-13 have been withdrawn pursuant to the Restriction/Election requirement.

Applicant also hereby provisionally elects, with traverse, Species 1/Figs. 1-9, drawn to a step assembly according to a first embodiment. Claims 14-19 and 21-27 read on Species 1.

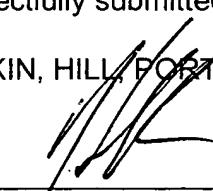
In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 18-0160, our Order No. ATL-14968.

Respectfully submitted,

RANKIN, HILL, PORTER & CLARK LLP

By

  
Kenneth A. Clark, Reg. No. 32,119

925 Euclid Avenue, Suite 700  
Cleveland, Ohio 44115  
(216) 566-9700